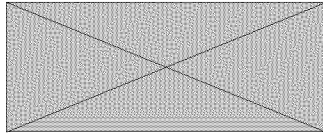


To: Carter Jessop[Jessop.Carter@epa.gov]; Hanf, Lisa[Hanf.Lisa@epa.gov]; Johnson, Kathleen[Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov]
Cc: Brush, Jason[Brush.Jason@epa.gov]; Leidy, Robert[Leidy.Robert@epa.gov]; Goldmann, Elizabeth[Goldmann.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
From: Goforth, Kathleen
Sent: Thur 3/12/2015 10:16:29 PM
Subject: FW: Question re: Rosemont SIR
[removed.txt](#)

FYI, see Jim Upchurch's reply to my question about the SIR's public availability.

From: Upchurch, Jim -FS [<mailto:jupchurch01@fs.fed.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Goforth, Kathleen
Subject: RE: Question re: Rosemont SIR

Agency Referral



Jim Upchurch
Forest Supervisor
Forest Service

Coronado National Forest

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300 West Congress

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Goforth, Kathleen [<mailto:Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 5:16 PM
To: Upchurch, Jim -FS
Subject: Question re: Rosemont SIR

Hi, Jim –

Thanks for your understanding and flexibility on the deadline for us to send you our feedback on the SIR.

I want to check in with you about something in the article below. It was our understanding that Forest Service was intending the SIR to be an internal document, but the statement in the article that it will be “published” suggests that it may be released for public review. Did we misunderstand or has there been a change of plans in that regard (or is the article in error)?

-Kathy

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager

Environmental Review Section (ENF-4-2)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

415-972-3521

From: Jessop, Carter

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 3:25 PM

To: Goforth, Kathleen

Cc: Goldmann, Elizabeth; Leidy, Robert

Subject: "Top Rosemont decision maker Upchurch leaving his job for a higher post"

http://tucson.com/news/blogs/desertblog/top-rosemont-decision-maker-upchurch-leaving-his-job-for-a/article_07df24be-b239-11e4-8500-6f6f0bd27115.html

Top Rosemont decision maker Upchurch leaving his job for a higher post

Coronado National Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch, whose name has become almost synonymous with the protracted Rosemont Mine controversy, is leaving his job in two months for a higher-level post in Albuquerque.

Upchurch will become a deputy to Regional Forester Calvin Joyner in the Forest Service regional forester's office there.

Since coming to his current job in October 2010, Upchurch has shepherded the stormy process over the mine proposed for the Santa Rita Mountains through dozens of detailed documents and numerous public hearings. It was under his watch that the controversial draft and final environmental impact statements for the mine were written.

The mine would produce 243 million pounds of copper annually and employ at least 400 people over its 20-plus-year life. But opponents have warned that it could pollute water, seriously harm endangered species and dry up the neighboring Cienega Creek and Davidson Canyon -- allegations all denied by Rosemont Copper.

Upchurch made a draft decision in favor of the mine in December 2013. But he had to put a final decision on hold last May.

That came after an endangered ocelot was discovered at the mine site and after the Fish and Wildlife Service raised a red flag about potential impacts to five other currently protected and two other species then proposed for federal protection that live in and around neighboring streams.

The two species that were at the time proposed for federal protection -- the Western yellow-billed cuckoo and the Northern Mexican garter snake -- have since been listed by the wildlife service as threatened.

The Forest Service and other agencies have been working ever since on trying to better understand the potential impacts so the service could publish an updated biological assessment on the mine. That assessment -- which will be signed by a biologist, not Upchurch -- almost certainly won't be published before Upchurch leaves, he said Wednesday.

For now, the Forest Service is working on an informational report -- to be used to prepare the formal assessment -- that it expects to publish in two months. Upchurch said at this point he doesn't know when the biological assessment will be published.

Once that's done, the wildlife service will conduct its own review of the project. That will lead to a final biological opinion that will determine if the mine will have legally unacceptable impacts on endangered and threatened species or if the impacts can be successfully mitigated.

Then, the Forest Service will make a final decision on the mine.

In any case, Upchurch said he will continue to be heavily involved in the mine issue in his new job. He isn't taking the Albuquerque position to get away from the mine controversy that has dogged him since his arrival, he said.

His draft decision in favor of the mine drew 102 formal, written objections from opponents and critics. But the Forest Service later determined that none of the objections raised legal issues strong enough to force reconsideration of the project or a rewrite of the Rosemont environmental impact statement.

"As much of a workload as it is, it is still a passion of mine that we get it right," Upchurch said of the Rosemont issue Wednesday in a telephone interview. "There's no getting away from a project of this size."

Upchurch said he doesn't know when his replacement will be named, and replacing him "might take awhile." An acting supervisor will take his position for a time, but no one has been named to that job yet, he said.

Carter W. Jessop

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